

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5106

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA/ISA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13375

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI ID SN MY

SUBJ: PROPOSED US-SINGAPORE AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE

REF: A. STATE 237898 B. STATE 237689 REPEATING USDAO/ SINGAPORE
MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 26 C. KUALA LUMPUR 5165

1. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE EXERCISE ENVISAGED IN STRAITS
COULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT ANY REPERCUSSIONS IN INDONESIA,
WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS SHOULD PERHAPS BE
CONSIDERED BEFORE FINAL DECISION MADE.

2. WHILE GOI HAS "LOOKED OTHER WAY" IN TRANSIT OF
US WARSHIPS, ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES COULD RAISE
PROBLEM ONCE MORE. INDONESIA'S FORMAL POSITION IS
THAT WE SHOULD GIVE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION WHEN US
WARSHIPS TRANSIT STRAITS.

3. INDONESIA IS NOT HAPPY WITH ITS SINGAPORE NEIGHBOR
ON LOS QUESTIONS AND THER WAS LITTLE COOPERATION
BETWEEN TWO AT CARACAS. USE BY SINGAPORE OF STRAITS
FOR MILITARY EXERCISE COULD BE CONSIDERED BY INDONESIA
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AS CONSPICUOUS DEMONSTRATION OF OPPOSING POINT OF VIEW.

4. WE ARE HOPEFULLY NEARING AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA ON LOS PRINCIPLE RELATING BOTH TO STRAITS AND PASSAGE OF WARSHIPS THROUGH ARCHIPELAGO INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT. WHILE WE WOULD NOT WANT TO OVER EMPHASIZE RISK, WE QUESTION WHETHER IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROPOSED EXERSICE IS SUCH THAT IT JUSTIFIES POSSIBLE RISK OF INCIDENT WHICH WOULD COMPICATE OUR FUTURE TALKS WITH GOI ON LOS PROBLEMS.

5. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT, IF EXERSICE IS TO TAKE PLACE, IT SHOULD BE ONLY ON CONDITION THAT SINGAPORE AGREES TO NOTIFY INDONESIA OF NATURE AND TIMING OF INTENDED EXERCISE. RISK OF ADVERSE REACTION WOULD BE ENHANCED IF IT IS A SURPRISE.

6. THESE SAME CONSIDERATIONS DO NOT APPLY IF EXERCISE IS HELD IN SOUTH CHINA SEA AWAY FROM STRAITS, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS ALSO MALAYSIAN INVOLVEMENT.
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